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First Amendment Update

**Institute for Policy Studies
hammers back at *The Spike*...**

At first, those at the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) were unconcerned with the publication of *The Spike*, which they considered a cheap, sleazy hardback thriller. But when reviews began appearing noting similarities between *The Spike*'s "Institute for Policy Reform" which engages in disinformation and propaganda for the USSR, and their own left-of-center Washington, D.C. thinktank, concern grew over where fiction overlapped with libel in *The Spike*.

After an exchange of legal correspondence between The Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) and Avon Books, the paperback publishers of *The Spike*, an agreement was reached to make extensive textual changes in the book to remove any resemblance between IPS and the fictional institute.

Ironically, in the letter the Hearst Corporation (which owns Avon Books) sent to IPS agreeing to change the name of the "Institute for Progressive Reform" to the "Foundation for Progressive Reform," "Institute for Policy Studies" was used in place of "Institute for Progressive Reform." A Freudian slip?

The Spike's authors, Robert Moss and Arnaud de Borchgrave, have repeatedly characterized the progressive movements both here and abroad as mouthpieces for Soviet "disinformation." Such a charge is disingenuous, considering the authors' own connections with the U.S. intelligence community, which routinely uses disinformation.

**FBI and CIA disruption
of underground press revealed**

In an article in the March/April issue of *Columbia Journalism Review*, Angus Mackenzie reports on the extent of FBI and CIA infiltration and disruption of the underground press movement in the sixties and early seventies. Using material obtained for the first time from the Freedom of Information Act, Mackenzie details how the FBI pressured record companies who provided the bulk of advertising revenue for many "countercultural" papers to stop doing business with the underground press (now you know why the *Berkeley Barb* began running sex ads!), as well as posing as underground journalists for purposes of surveillance and penetration. Ostensibly, the aims for the CIA's Operation CHAOS and the FBI's COINTELPRO were to discover links between dissident groups and the Soviet Union. No such connections were ever discovered.

Just as such revelations of abuse of power and outright illegality comes to the fore, we also have the story of the Reagan pardon of FBI agents Mark Felt and Edward S. Miller on April 15. The *Washington Star* editorialized: "As the president points out, the nation has been generous to draft evaders and others who broke laws because of convictions about the war. It can afford to be equally generous by similar moral zeal on the other side of the Vietnam issue."

We suppose, however, that such generosity does not extend to Abbie Hoffman, who has received a three-year sentence for cocaine dealing, despite his surrendering voluntarily and leading an exemplary life while in hiding, or to the continuing failure of the U.S. government to upgrade the status of thousands of veterans who received bad paper, or the proposed dismantling of programs aimed at helping veterans still suffering from the last war.

It should also be kept in mind that former FBI agents Felt and Miller did not face any time in jail, but only fines of \$5,000 and \$3,500 respectively, which were being appealed.

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New proposed Executive Order on domestic intelligence

In response to abuses and illegal acts of the U.S. intelligence community revealed by former CIA officers and by journalists using the Freedom of Information Act, Congress passed several laws restricting the role of the CIA and FBI,

especially in regard to domestic surveillance of citizens engaged in legal activities. However, the Reagan administration is mounting a strong campaign to roll back these reforms.

According to the proposed Executive Order on domestic intelligence, "black bag" searches and break-ins no longer need approval by the President or Attorney General; that responsibility can now be delegated to any intelligence agency head. Other broadened powers include physical searches, mail surveillance, physical surveillance, infiltration of groups engaged in legal activities, and the gathering of confidential information from banks, corporations, and government agencies.

The language of the 1947 National Security Act said that the newly formed CIA "shall have no police, subpoena, law enforcement powers or internal security functions." Both liberals and conservatives hoped to restrict the CIA's covert operations to outside the U.S.

Now, it seems, the chickens are coming home to roost. ■

The Washington Book Review believes that the responsibility of reviewers, who are writers first and reviewers second, extends beyond judging the literary merits of any particular book, and that any threats to freedom of the press and of speech should be matters of urgent concern. That is why we are initiating in this issue a column entitled First Amendment Update, which will note and comment on national trends that endanger the Bill of Rights.